RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 28th November, 2007/7 Agrahayana, 1929 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Setting up leather Parks

*181. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:††
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering setting up Leather Parks in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and what fiscal and financial incentives shall be given to these Parks;

(c) whether locations of such Parks have been identified;

(d) if so, who identifies the location, and what is the size of such Parks;

(e) who will be responsible for developing the infrastructure in such Parks; and

(f) what will be the role and obligations of the respective State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(e) Special Purpose Vehicle would be responsible for developing the infrastructure in the parks/complexes.

(f) The State Governments or its agencies may participate in the project by providing necessary assistance for infrastructure, power, water and other utilities.

Statement

Sl. No	Name of park/complex	Central Government assistance	Location	Total Area	Implementing agency	Special Purpose Vehicle
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Footwear Component Park	Rs. 10 Crores	Chennai Location identified by Special Purpose Vehicle	51.56 acres	Council for Leather Exports	Consortium of Shoe Manufacturers Private Limited

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Prema Cariappa.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Footwear Complex	Rs. 14 Crores	Chennai Location identified by Special Purpose Vehicle	153.65 acres	State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited	State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited
3.	Leather Goods Export Park	Rs. 5 Crores	Kolkata Location identified by Special Purpose Vehicle	50.687 acres	Council for Leather Exports	Indian Leather Products Association Infrastructure Development Foundation

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: The Minister has said in the answer that the State Government and its agencies may participate in the project by providing necessary assistance for infrastructure, power, water and other utilities. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether adequate steps have been ensured by way of providing power and water in order to keep the public, in the vicinity of the leather parks, free of pollution.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, concerns relating to environment are paramount and foremost in the Government's policies and the way we implement them. There can be no doubt that while we have to assure water, power and other facilities to the leather sector, we also have to be mindful of the concerns of the residents relating to pollution and environment. I would like to assure the hon. Member that in implementing our policies, these concerns will be the foremost.

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, apart from the Special Purpose Vehicle responsible for developing the infrastructure, would there be any machinery involved in keeping proper vigil on the safe functioning of the leather parks and proper health care of the workers working therein. I also would like to know how many State Governments and their agencies have participated in this project so far.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, the position as regards the participation of the State Governments have been given in the statement annexed to my answer with respect to the Tenth Plan. With respect to the Eleventh Plan, we think that this is going to be extended much further because the Plan allocation has been raised from Rs. 400 crores to Rs. 1,300 crores; that is what is under consideration of the Expenditure finance Committee. As far as the concerns of the health workers is concerned, quite clearly, this is again a foremost consideration and the appropriate agencies do take care to ensure that the minimal standards of health care are observed.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, the hon. Minister has not yet replied on who identified the locations, because he has given only three locations. I would like to know if they have any plan for many more locations because three locations are not enough. Also, Sir, in the Tenth Plan, what kind of finance was allocated in the Budget? I understand that nothing has been utilised. For the Eleventh Plan also it has been trebled. But, will it, at all, be utilised? What is the plan of the Government so that these funds do not go unutilised and what kind of subsidy is being given? who is getting the subsidy? What is the procedure for subsidy?

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, in the Tenth Plan, the methodology adopted, and which is going to be continued in the Eleventh Plan as well as the Special Purpose Vehicle which

could be either by a public sector corporation or by public-private partnership, or it could be by the private sector. As I have indicated in my statement, for example, we have got three parks, one in Kolkata and two in Chennai. The Special purpose Vehicles have been identified. In one place, it is a consortium of private entrepreneurs, and in another case it is the State Government agency, and that would be what would be carried forward in the Eleventh Plan.

Sir, it is true that as far as the allocation of the funds earmarked in the Tenth Plan is concerned, there was some under-utilisation and the reason was that the scheme was notified only in November. So, we lost 7-8 months. Therefore, there was a small under-utilisation of the amount it is equally true. Sir that for the Eleventh Five Year Plan, we have raised the limit as I said, from Rs. 400 crores to Rs. 1,300 crores. That is the estimated perspective Plan which we hope will be finalised. As far as the site selections, is concerned, that is a function of the Special Purpose Vehicle because, as the hon. Chairman knows, this activity is concentrated in certain States and the most suitable site available is identified by the company, which is the Special Purpose Vehicle, which takes all factors into consideration.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like the hon. Minister to give me information about the other States which have applied for permission for setting up of leather parks and whether the Government of Maharasthra has requested for permission for establishment of such a park. If so, when was it submitted and what is its present status?

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, as we are now in the beginning of the Eleventh Plan, the schemes for the Eleventh Plan are yet to be received and as and when all the States have applied, different States have applied. I will submit the information as far as Eleventh Plan is concerned. With regard to Tenth Plan..*(interruptions)*...

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, my question was different. My question was, how many applications have come from different States so far.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, in the Eleventh Plan we have not received any application because the Plan itself has not been finalised.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sir, through you, what I would like to know from the hon. Minister is this. There is one Goods Export Leather Park in Kolkata as has been mentioned in the answer and the assistance from the Central Government is Rs. 5 crores. According to the information, the Special Purpose Vehicle with West Bengal will perform. My speitic question is: (a) What is the present states of the Goods Export Park; and, (b) is there any time frame when a will start and when it will be completed?

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, the Leather Park in Kolkata is at its final stages. It is expected to be completed by the end of 2007-08.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. It has been conceded by the Minister in his reply that it is the lookout of the Special Purpose Vehicle to identify and locate the places for establishing the parks. I am inclined to ask that there should be a set of guidelines, standard norm with regard to identification or locating the places for parks. If so, will there be any chance for discretion? If there is a chance for discretion are there any cases of misuse? I would like to know.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, the possibility of misuse of any policy cannot be ruled out. It is always there in the realm of theoretical possibility and these things do happen. But as far as site selection is concerned; would like to inform the hon. Member that it is basically

the function of the judgement of the Special Purpose Vehicle and its constituents as to which would be the most economically viable, most suitable. For example if there is a leather cluster in a particular area, it stands to reason that site selected for further commercial activities would be in that area where there is minimum infrastructure already available for the beneficial utilisation of the resources in the leather factory in that particular State.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: My point is whether you are purely going on merit, objectively.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Yes, Sir. It has to be observed. I would like to assure the Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 182.

श्री शरद यादव: सर, यह मेरा point of propriety है, यह जो question है, इसके सदस्य भी यहां नहीं है और इसके मिनिस्टर भी यहां नहीं हैं, यह सबसे महत्वपूर्ण सवाल था ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति: मिनिस्टर यहां है। The Minister is here. ...(*Interruptions*)... We will go to the next Question. Question No. 183. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, शरद जी ने जो यह बात कही, यह गंभीर बात है ...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the Member is not present in the House, the question cannot be taken up. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is a subsequent question. ....(*Interruptions*)...

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, गवर्नमेंट के मिनिस्टर यहां नहीं है, चूंकि यह SEZ का मामला है इसलिए औद्योगिक घरानों को बचाने के लिए मंत्री जी गायब हैं ...(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the Member is not present in the House, ...(*Interruptions*)... It is the established practice of the House that if the Member is not present the question cannot be taken up ...(*Interruptions*)... A written answer has been given. ...(*Interruptions*)... Let us go by the established rules. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please do not introduce...(*Interruptions*)... Please. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री जयराम रमेश: महोदय, मंत्री गायब नहीं है, मैं जवाब देने के लिए तैयार हूं ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री अमर सिंह: महोदय, प्रश्नकर्त्ता भी गायब है और मंत्री भी गायब हैं ...(**व्यवधान**)... चूंकि यह SEZ का मामला है इसलिए औद्योगिक घरानों को बचाने के लिए मंत्री जी गायब हैं ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: The Minister is also absent. ..(*Intrerruptions*)..

श्री जयराम रमेश: महोदय, यह इल्जाम बिल्कुल गलत है कि मंत्री जी यहां नहीं हैं ...(**व्यवधान**).--

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, एस.ई.जेड. को आग लगी हुई है। ....(**व्यवधान**).... एस.ई.जेड. को आग लगी हुई है। ....(**व्यवधान**)....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, एक बड़े औद्योगिक घराने को बचाने के लिए यह हो रहा है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, if the Member is not present you have the discretion to ask somebody else to put the question if the Minister is ready to reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Joshiji, there is an established practice; I do not want to interfere with it. ---(*Interruptions*)---

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, एस.ई.जेड. पर कितनी चर्चा हुई है? ....(**व्यवधान**)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow the Question Hour to proceed. Please... (*Interruptions*).... Please allow the Question Hour to proceed. Please...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री जयराम रमेश: मैं जवाब देने के लिए तैयार हूं। ....(व्यवधान)...

श्री अमर सिंह: सर, इसके ऊपर डिसकशन होना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)... सर, इसके ऊपर डिसकशन होना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, what is the number of...(*Interruptions*).... being affected? ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, there is an established practice in the House. If the Member who has put the question is not present, that question is not taken up. Let us not be accused of violating our rules in such a flagrant manner. The subject may be important enough but there are other ways of taking up the subject. So, let us proceed as per our own practice. Q. No. 183 ... (*Interruptions*)...

श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी: सभापति महोदय, मेरा निवेदन इतना है कि एक बार प्रश्न अगर सूची में आ गया, तो यह हाऊस की प्रॉपर्टी बन जाता है। मैं मानता हूं, जो आपने कहा है कि हमारी यह परंपरा रही है कि अगर प्रश्न पूछने वाला सदस्य उपस्थित नहीं है, तो हम सामान्यत: वह प्रश्न नहीं पूछते हैं, लेकिन ऐसी स्थिति में, जबकि प्रश्न के महत्व को देखते हुए आपको यह अधिकार है, यह आपको विशेष अधिकार है कि ....(व्यवधान).... आप इस रूल को ज़रूर रिलैक्स कर सकते हैं और आपको चाहिए कि सदन की भावनाओं को देखते हुए आप इस नियम को रिलैक्स करके प्रश्न को लेने की कृपा करें। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री अमर सिंह : मैं आपका समर्थन करता हूं ।...(व्यवधान)... मैं आपकी बात का समर्थन करता हूं। यह बहुत सही है।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, it is a very serious issue. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Members wish to change the rules they are welcome to move in that direction. (*Interruptions*)

श्री जयराम रमेश: सर, आप इस पर Half-an-Hour डिसकशन कराइए। ....(व्यवधान)...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: सर, आप अनुमति दे दीजिए। ....(व्यवधान)...

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): I may submit before you. Sir, on behalf of the Government that whenever the Members desire to have a full discussion in the House on an important matter, they can give the notice. Government is prepared to participate in the discussion and respond.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think that settles the matter. Now, Q. No. 183.

*182. [The questioner (Shri Praveen Rashtrapal) was absent. For answer *vide* page 21 infra.]

National child labour projects scheme

*183. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether on "World Day Against Child Labour" this year, Government formulated "National Child Labour Projects Scheme (NCLPS)" for welfare and rehabilitation of children below 14 years of age;